

WAVELENGTH 780

Newsletter - No. 10

January 2012

An occasional newsletter for interested followers of the Wavelength 780

Newsflash! *Discount on cost of plans until April 31st 2012. - Details below -*

This past year has been a restrained period for boating projects across the board, with many countries and individuals experiencing the effects of the global financial downturn. Understandably, this has put the building plans for many a new boat on hold, particularly while jobs and income remain uncertain. Changes in the second hand boat market add to this mix. While older vessels may not be exactly what a new builder desires, they have become a little more available and affordable.

Despite all of the above, enquiries and comments appreciative of the design of the Wavelength 780 continue to come in via the website (www.wavelengthmultihulls.com) from around the world.

Cruising:

(Not on a Wavelength 780 this time!)

After a 4wd coach trip to the top of Australia mid year, in September I was invited by a sailing colleague to fly to Vanuatu to assist in sailing his 40 foot Hitchhiker cat 'Shekinah' back to Australia.



'Shekinah' at Lollowai

The couple of weeks prior to departure were spent cruising around Espiritu Santo, the largest island of Vanuatu, and nearby islands as well as preparing the boat for the 1200 nm ocean passage back to Australia.

In the course of our travels, we came across a number of traditional dugout outrigger canoes, still used by the local population for fishing and recreation.



Dugout at Ansanvari

These sit alongside outboard powered long boats, now the multipurpose workboats around many of the island villages.



Longboat near Luganville

I mention this, as a couple of enquirers have wondered about the suitability of the Wavelength building technique for building an outrigger canoe using ply.

As I replied to one enquirer contemplating building a 'Ulua' outrigger canoe (design available on the web), the technique could be readily adapted to build the canoe in ply.



Building:

Neil, a local builder at Mt Cotton, has finally put his new boat in the water for a test run while his mast is being anodised. Neil has assembled the rig himself from a basic kit of parts supplied by a local yacht rigging company to meet the specifications for the boat.

Assembling Neil's mast





Neil has also built his own trailer, both of these items contributing to the longevity of Neil's build time.



I am hoping that we will see another Wavelength 780 under sail in the next couple of weeks!

Meanwhile, Alan at Blackbutt is progressing well with his project. His floats are joined and faired, with the exception of the sacrificial bow cap.



His main hull mould has been built and the first half of the main hull is well underway.



Alan is a professional boat builder in Queensland specialising in ply/epoxy construction. He is happy to discuss subcontracting out the basic build of a Wavelength 780 or its components if potential builders are interested. To this end, he has built a 'heavy duty' version of the main hull mould to facilitate multiple re-use.



Heavy duty battens on mould

If interested, contact me (Bob Forster) and I will pass on contact details.

In Western Australia, Paul has finished his floats and is currently building his beams.



Float with beam mould in background

In the meantime, he has sub-contracted Duck Flat Wooden Boats to build his main hull. At this stage, they have completed the deck halves and are setting up the main hull mould.

Racing:

While my own race participation has been limited by other activities for these last few months, Ted, the owner of 'New Horizons', has continued to fly the 'Wavelength 780' flag on the race course with some success. His most recent achievement has been to win the inshore multihull handicap division of the annual 48 nm Q.C.Y.C. / S.Y.C. Surf to City Race this month.



A strong fleet of thirteen multihulls of various designs started in the event, wending their way in light conditions among the islands of southern Moreton Bay before opening out into the bay proper, allowing for a long spinnaker reach across the bay in fresher winds and more open waters. 'New Horizons' also came second in the OMR division, to give Ted an excellent result for the whole event. On 'Wavelength', we were not disgraced, managing a third on handicap for the event.

Wavelength 780 Plans:

Special Discount until 31st April 2012

For those of you who remain very interested in building a Wavelength 780, a special discount will be offered to new plan buyers over the next three months. The significant costs of printing and postage of the plans will be waived, with a further discount of \$50.00 off the current cost of plans.

Your Price – Australian \$850.00

(This is effectively a 21% reduction on the previous cost of acquiring plans)

Payment by Bank Cheque or Money Transfer – Account details available on placement of Plan Order

The cost of the study package is deductible from the cost of the plans for clients who then go on to purchase a full set of plans. The cost of the study package remains the same as advertised on the website, www.wavelengthmultihulls.com

Further enquiries:

“Contact Us” on the website

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Website news:

Some difficulties have been experienced with accessing early ‘Wavelength 780’ Newsletters. Many of these have articles of interest to cruisers, plus additional comments on the boat, its construction and builders’ progress. These should soon be readily available by clicking on the ‘Newsletter Archive’ link on the Home page sidebar. The newsletters have been re-edited in January 2012 and converted to PDF files.

With Kind Regards,

Bob Forster